

DRAFT FOR REVIEW

Town of Arlington
Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)

Tuesday, July 26, 2005 Meeting called to order at 7:15 pm

Committee members present: Joe Cahill, Ralph Elwell, Jeff Maxtutis, Lt. Jim McHugh, Kevin O'Brien, Chuck Pappas, John Sanchez, Ed Starr. Associates: Erik Moore

Administration

- Minutes of 6/28/05 were approved unanimously.
- Overview of agenda, correspondence, and action list.
- Brief discussion of need to improve formal communication and follow up on voted actions. Ed will bring forward a proposal to group at next meeting.
- Kevin presented draft letter to Mass Highways District 4 for comment and edit. Ed and Kevin to sign final edition at close of meeting.

Public Comments

- No members of the public in attendance.

Downing Square

- John and Jim announced that the Summer Street reconstruction project will necessitate the rerouting of traffic in phases for the entire month of August, much of it through Downing Square. Parking restrictions will be posted on Lowell and Westminster Streets and detour signs will go up in advance of the Aug 1st Monday morning's commute. There will be police officers assigned to direct traffic through Downing Square for as many days as necessary.
- Downing Square experiment will need to be suspended during this period. Some or all of the current sandbag installations will be removed. Installation of the raised crosswalk will be delayed at least until September 1st.
- In addition to the already published Arlington Advocate notice (July 21 issue) TAC will attempt to spread the word to neighbors by way of the Working Group email list, the TAC web site, the Arlington community email list, and the Town website.
- As soon as practicable, the experiment will resume with the addition of the raised crosswalk. It is anticipated that discussions with neighborhood residents regarding the next steps for Downing Square may take place by late September or early in October.

Lane definition for Park Ave

- John announced that the locations for the fog line markings have been outlined on the pavement with dots and the painting contractor is expected to paint the solid marking within the week.

Dallin School

- Jeff reported on the Board of Selectmen meeting of July 11. The BoS unanimously approved the package of TAC recommendations (Memo dated July 11). They then referred the proposals to the Town Manager for implementation, including a preliminary survey with costs for sidewalk construction along with a directive to the Town Counsel to “find a way to use the section of George Street that is a private way, to improve it, and make it one way to Rhinecliff”.

Library Way Crosswalk

- Reviewed written communication from Mike Rademacher with very preliminary recommendations. Joe Cahill has joined the working group and shared observations. It was concluded that, in order to address the crosswalk concerns, the group will need to expand its focus.
- The next steps are to do traffic counts with attention to turning vehicles, to consider traffic movements and visibility issues within the broader geographic area, and to project the impact(s) of prohibiting left turns from Library Way and Water Street. It is also evident that the Mass Ave corridor project is too far distant to be a factor in our current considerations.
- The TAC discussed the issue of left turns from Water St to Mass and Library Way to Mass. Although, these turns may not directly impact the crosswalk, they add significantly to the complexity of the intersection. It was voted unanimously to add consideration of left turns onto Mass Ave as a part of this issue.

Mass Ave Corridor

- Kevin reported that the Inner Core Committee (subdivision of MAPC) has forwarded a letter to the MAPC chair expressing the importance of considering the Mass Ave Corridor for its next cycle of project funding. The Town Manager will host a ‘walk through’ with Mass Highway next Tuesday, August 2nd at 2:30 pm. All TAC members are invited to join in.
- Discussion ensued of how to secure funding for the design phase in order to then get state funding for the construction.
- Kevin asked for guidance regarding the next tasks for the remaining contract with VHB. It was agreed to have Trish work on enhancement proposals to include with any future grant applications.

Thorndike Field

- Ed presented an overview of the request and reported that he has not yet managed to connect with Joe Carabello of the Park & Recreation Commission to discuss. First steps are to do counts of vehicle

movements before and after sporting events. Jeff and Scott will form working group and invite Howard to join and perhaps serve as chair. Jeff suggested surveying field users to determine whether teams are being scheduled to play close to home or crossing paths to play in one another's neighborhoods.

Walkable Communities

- Ed outlined an invitation from the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to host a Walkable Community workshop. TAC endorsed the idea. Ed will contact. John volunteered the PWD to serve as host for the event.

Sunrise Crosswalk

- Ed reported first meeting with the Sunrise staff member proposing that a crosswalk be established crossing Mass Ave from their facility to the Citizens Bank building. Ed and Ralph have made preliminary observations of the streetscape and concluded that an installation is feasible but would likely result in the loss of four parking spaces. Ed will arrange a 2nd meeting this week to outline the projected cost and discuss a possible timetable for the decision making process.
- Chuck commented on the current traffic conditions during busy periods of the week, particularly Saturdays, and on the number of area parking spaces, both on- and off-street.
- Kevin added that a nearby business has recently been sold and may be replaced with a larger building.

Hawthorne and Cedar Aves

- Jeff presented photos of the streetscape. Analysis of conditions include broad expanses of asphalt, poor sight lines, significant foot traffic generated by the Brackett elementary school and Robbins Farm park, and the lack of auto movement control. The situation is further complicated by private way status. Depending on whether the Town can successfully assume responsibility for the intersection, a recommendation of adding stop signs and/or reconfiguring the streets to create a 'T' intersection.

Fisher and Fayette

- Joe reported observations of afternoon rush hour traffic. The situation was described as having good sight lines, slow vehicle speeds, and adequate sidewalks on all four approaches. Traffic volume is unlikely to meet the warrant requirements for stop sign installation. Another Robbins Farm neighborhood intersection, both street borders the Brackett School property and the recommendation is to delay making further observations or recommendations until after the start of the school year.

Park Ave slowdown

- Ralph reported that he will schedule a walk through with proponent Oakes Plimpton after the fog lines are painted.

Appleton/Paul Revere

- Request traffic counts after the start of school.

Status of Voted Actions

- John reported work in progress on all DPW items.
- Added item: add 'Stop Ahead' at Cedar/Waverly

Evergreen Way

- John reported resident petition to close this private way to vehicle traffic.
- No action recommended.

Town Departments Updates

- Summer Street (discussed above).
- Symmes. 3rd public hearing was held. 4th scheduled for Monday, August 1st. Next ARB meeting August 29.
- Thermoplastic installations are dependent on contractor's schedule.
- Police department has two new officers and added one half-time parking control staff. Traffic division is expected to be reconstituted.

Current Project List

- Quick overview from Ed.

Multi Use.

- Ann Lusk has received grant extension which will fund larger signs.
- First stencil installations are complete, more to be painted.

Meeting adjourned at 9:14 pm